

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1-3 and 6 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been appropriately amended as required by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the claim rejection be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okazaki* (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,797) in view of *Cok* (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,319), and further in view of *Sekiguchi* (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,327). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The instant application claims priority to the Japanese Patent Application No. JP2002-288801, which was filed on October 1, 2002. One of the two cited references cited by the Examiner for this 103(a) claim rejection, *Cok*, was filed in the United States on October 25, 2002. As such, *Okazaki*, *Cok* and *Sekiguchi* may not be properly combined to reject Claims 1-3 and 6.

In order to overcome the date of the *Cok* reference and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55, Applicant hereby encloses an English translation of the certified copy of the corresponding Japanese Application No. JP2002-288803 relied upon for foreign priority claims. In addition, a statement that the English translation of the certified copy is accurate is also enclosed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1-3 and 6 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 2, 2008

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